ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

AUTOMATIC PROVISIONING FOR SUBSCRIPTION COMPUTING

The present invention is directed toward a method, computer program product, and data processing system for providing automatic, mass-customized preparation of disk

5   images. The invention relies on a front end, which interacts with customers and sales personnel to acquire self-consistent provisioning requirements. These requirements are input to a provisioning engine, which uses a knowledge base of constraints and affinities to generate a set of provisioning orders. These orders are input to a disk image builder, which automatically creates the disk image and saves it for distribution. The disk image

10   builder also consults a knowledge base concerning best practices established by the service provider for disk image builds. Finally, the requirements are used to drive a disk image tester, which exercises the image as a quality inspection.

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